

1875 MNRAS... 35R.1167
May 7th, 1874, from the Royal Italian Opera, he complained of a severe pain in his chest, and the medical man who was called in next day pronounced him to be suffering from an attack of suppressed measles—his youngest son being, as a matter of fact, ill in the house at the time with that complaint. Unhappily the diagnosis was erroneous, and it was *Angina Pectoris* with which he was seized. He seemed to rally through in the course of a week or two, and had been so markedly better during the day, on May 21st, that all around him were sanguine as to his speedy recovery. Quite suddenly, however, after midnight, he complained of acute pain near his heart, and in two minutes he was a corpse. He leaves his widow with three sons and two daughters to lament the loss of a loving husband and father; and all those who had the privilege of his acquaintance to grieve for that of an amiable and accomplished man and a sterling friend.

Lieutenant THOMAS C. R. CARPENDALE joined the Indian Navy in 1847, at the age of fifteen or sixteen, and served in it, first as midshipman and afterwards as lieutenant, up to the date of its abolition in 1862.

He served in the Persian war of 1856, and in a Naval Brigade during the Indian Mutiny.

From 1862 up to his death, which occurred on July 16, 1870, he commanded one of the Indian Government Marine vessels, and took part in the submergence of the Persian Gulf telegraph cable in 1864, directing the course of the towing steamer.

He was a careful navigator, and hydrography is indebted to his observations for the position of more than one shoal in the Eastern seas.

He leaves a widow and young family to lament his early death.

A warm-hearted Irishman, he was much liked and esteemed by his brother officers and his men.

WILLIAM CHARLES COX was born in London on September 10, 1786. He was one of the senior surviving Fellows of the Society, having been elected on January 14, 1831. At this period of his life he had a considerable taste for astronomy, which enabled him throughout a long career of business as a practical optician at Devonport to employ his scientific knowledge for the advantage of those who needed assistance in connection with his business, especially of commanders of vessels belonging to that important seaport town. He was, however, of a retiring disposition, and latterly he was but little known beyond his own family circle, but his reputation as a local optician was well established, and there were but few in his neighbourhood who were more conversant with all the details of the work of a scientific instrument-maker than he was. Mr. Cox, for a very long period, was the agent at Devonport in charge of the depôt of Admiralty chronometers, and in that capacity was in frequent official communica-

tion with the Chronometer Department of the Royal Observatory. He died at Laira, near Plymouth, on April 19, 1874, in the eighty-eighth year of his age.

PETER ANDREAS HANSEN* was born at Tondern, a town on the river Widau, in the Duchy of Schleswig, on December 8, 1795. His father was a goldsmith of that town, generally esteemed by his fellow-citizens for his integrity and benevolence, but in somewhat straitened circumstances, so that he could not afford to give his son, who showed an early and decided inclination for scientific pursuits, the education and instruction corresponding to his wishes. Young Hansen was thrown therefore in these respects very much upon his own resources. He spent much of his time after school hours in studying French and Latin, chiefly by the aid of books lent him from time to time by different friends. For mathematics and the physical sciences he exhibited an intense interest, constructing for himself the apparatus which he found useful in their acquisition so far as his means and opportunities allowed. But seeing no prospect of being able to carry out his ardent desire of entering on a scientific career, he resolved, as he grew older, to become master of the art of clock-making, an occupation in which he thought the knowledge he had obtained would be most usefully applied. With this view he joined himself to a skilful clock-maker at Flensburg, and soon showed a very considerable amount of skill and cleverness in the art. During this time he continued to spend his leisure, and frequently great part of the night, in prosecuting his scientific studies, without any assistance, and entirely self-directed. Becoming dissatisfied, however, with this occupation, in consequence of an irresistible impulse to devote himself to the sciences, he once more earnestly requested his parents to procure him the means of going to a university. He was informed that this request could not be granted; and many letters still exist, stating his deep grief at this, accompanied with expressions of the sincerest filial respect and affection for his parents. In the year 1818, having finished serving his time at Flensburg, he went by way of Tondern to Berlin, where he worked for a year with a clock-maker. Afterwards he returned to his native town, and set up a clock-making establishment at his father's house. Here he happened to make in the following year (1820), in consequence of the illness of his sister, the acquaintance of Dr. Dirks, a physician, a man who united mathematical pursuits with his professional duties. He recognised the talents of young Hansen, and succeeded at last in inducing his father to consent to his travelling to Copenhagen, and introducing himself to Professor

* The Council are indebted to M. Hansen, of Gotha, son of the late Professor Hansen, and to Madame de Mädler, of Hanover, for their courtesy in supplying, at the request of one of the Secretaries, many interesting particulars relating to the lives of Professors Hansen and Mädler.